



October 10, 2019

Andrew Wheeler, EPA Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of the Administrator, 1101A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler,

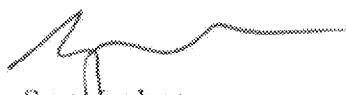
The Northeast Florida Builders Association (NEFBA) appreciates EPA and Florida's efforts to transition Section 404 wetland permitting authority to the State, while maintaining all federal water resource and endangered species protections. We believe that Florida's full assumption of the program would significantly advance your agency's cooperative federalism and government efficiency goals.

We respectfully request your support in resolving any remaining hurdles to the State of Florida assuming the Section 404 permitting program. In particular, we need you to help facilitate a path forward for Florida permitted entities to gain the full level of endangered species protection from the State that is currently available through a federally issued Section 404 permit. The State of Florida has presented an option for achieving that objective, and we support EPA's acceptance of that proposal, which would allow Florida to fully assume the program.

Achieving full program assumption is important to NEFBA and our more than 1,200 members throughout Northeast Florida. NEFBA's core mission is one of advocacy, and its legislative, legal and political initiatives work together to create the best possible economic and regulatory environments for our members to succeed. Consistent with our core mission and our members' interests, we support Florida's assumption of the 404 permitting program, which would help create a more effective and efficient planning and policy framework for our members, and the development industry.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and look forward to supporting EPA and Florida as the State's assumption of the Section 404 wetland permitting program advances towards completion.

Best Regards,




Sean Junker  
President



Bill Garrison  
Executive Officer

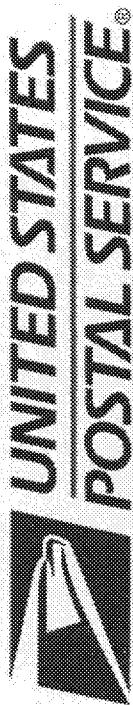
 [nefba.com](http://nefba.com)

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 6747 Southpoint Parkway, Jacksonville, FL 32216

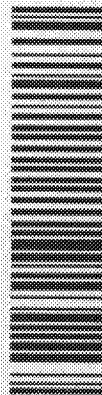
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**TO:**  
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